



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mock Election and who is conducting this project?

A mock election is a process by which students get to vote on their favorite candidates without having their vote count in the “official election.” In our Mock Election, Louisiana’s students will get to vote for a presidential candidate and have their votes tallied with other students across the nation. The Secretary of State’s office is planning the election in conjunction with Cox Communications and the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

What is the National Student/Parent Mock Election?

The National Student/Parent Mock Election is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that makes students aware of the power of their ballot by actively involving them in a full-fledged campaign and national election. More than 40 million people have participated since the project began in 1980.

Why should I encourage my students to participate in the program?

This is a fantastic education opportunity for the students. It gives them a vested interest in who is elected president, and it stokes interest in the voting process at an early age.

Additionally, Cox Communications is conducting a computer giveaway. All participating schools will be entered in the drawing.

How does my school register to participate in the program?

Participating schools should sign up online at www.nationalmockelection.org. Click the Enroll Now button in the upper left corner of the webpage. Schools may also go to the Secretary of State’s Web site (www.GeauxVote.com) where there is a link to the online enrollment form. The form will ask for information regarding the name and location of the school, the contact information for the school coordinator, and the estimated number of students participating.

When is the deadline for registering?

Oct. 20 is the deadline to register, but we strongly encourage schools to register as early as possible. Registering early gives schools more time to plan and conduct their elections.

What is the next step once I have enrolled my school in the program?

You will be sent a unique PIN for each student to be used on Election Day. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the PINs, please contact the Secretary of State's Outreach Division at 225.342.4479.

What equipment is needed to vote?

At least one computer with Internet access is needed to participate in the voting process.

How do the students vote?

Once seated at a computer (i.e. voting booth), students will logon to the Website, enter their PIN, and cast their ballot for the election.

How do you recommend organizing the election for our school?

Your school may choose to elect a registrar and clerk for the election. The offices can be selected by a vote of the student council or the entire student body.

The registrar will be in charge of the student list (i.e. the voter roll) and PINs. He or she will make sure that each student is assigned a PIN and that each student only votes once.

The clerk will be in charge of conducting the election. On the day of the election, students will be sent to their computer lab or library to access the computers. Students can be sent alphabetically or by class. The election can be conducted all on one day or over several days.

Your school may also elect to have the duties of the registrar and clerk conducted by a member of the faculty. This might be a particularly good idea for middle and elementary school students.

When can the students vote?

Once you have received the PINs for your students, they may vote at any time during the Mock Election from Oct. 20 to Oct. 30. This will give you an opportunity to pick a day (or multiple days) that works best for your school.

NOTE: Voting must be completed prior to 1 p.m. on Oct. 30.

How long should the voting process take?

Based on private elections conducted by the Secretary of State's Outreach Division, the voting process can take roughly 30 to 45 seconds per student.

What is the Celebration Event?

The Celebration Event is the culmination of voting activities. It will be at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge on Oct. 30.

Who is invited to the Celebration Event?

Superintendents will select one high school boy and one high school girl from their district, along with a chaperone to attend the event. Government officials and spokespersons for the Obama and McCain campaigns will also deliver speeches about the importance of civic engagement.

When will we know the voting results for our school?

Results will be available on the afternoon of Oct. 30.

Whom should we contact if we have a question or comment?

Please visit the Presidential Mock Election Website at www.GeauxVote.com or contact the Secretary of State Outreach Division at 225.342.4479 should you have any questions.